

BOARD OF FINANCE
MAY 10, 2007

Present: Kathleen McGannon; George Areson; Marty Shapiro; Tom Tesoro; Russell Friedson; William Crooks; alternates Patrick Helfrich and Alex Robinson

Also present: Ray Baldwin, First Selectman; Lynn Heim, Director of Finance; Maria Pires, Asst. Director of Finance

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Finance was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Kathleen McGannon. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to remember our service men and women stationed around the world.

Public Comments:

The following residents fully support an engineering study being done for the construction of retention areas at Great Oak Park and Pequonnock River Valley:

Amie Joyce and Andy Palmieri, 206 Lake Avenue.

Greg Gilson, 194 Lake Avenue. Also requests that Canoe Brook area be included in this study.

Tony Scinto, 32 Lindberg Drive

Don Watson, 54 Larkspur Drive. Also requests that a town wide water shed study be done. Mr. Watson suggests that a full water shed study be done. There are three things that need to be looked at: 1) flow of water; 2) water shed plan; 3) restoring streamside buffers.

Laura Mann, Sunnyridge. Main issue is that storm drains are never cleaned out.

Tony Bracca, 22 Westley Drive. Something is happening under ground. With every storm we've had, the ground is sinking.

Vinnie Long, Greenwood Drive.

Mr. Baldwin stated that this is going to require a comprehensive town wide study. DEP is interested in doing some flood remediation in the Town. With respect to Great Oak Park, because the town owns that property, it will be easier to do flood remediation in there than it is the Pequonnock Valley because that's essentially controlled by the State of Connecticut and DEP Army Corps. We need to start the process somewhere somehow and this is probably the step we have to take and obviously I support the appropriation.

5-07-01...Education...At 8:00 p.m. Mr. Areson moved to enter into Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Tesoro for the purpose of discussing upcoming negotiations with TAA.

Present: Board of Finance Members; Superintendent Ralph Iassogna; Attorney Richard O'Conner and Steve Wright, Chairman, Board of Education.

At 8:19 p.m. Mr. Areson moved to return to regular session; seconded by Mr. Tesoro. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Areson; seconded by Mr. Tesoro to take Item 5-07-05 out of order. Motion carried unanimously.

5-07-05...Engineering...Appropriate from Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$30,000 to 01030500-522202 Serv. & Fees-Prof. for the purpose of conducting an engineering study for the construction of retention areas at Great Oak Park and the Pequonnock River Valley.

Mr. Friedson stated since it is his understanding that the chosen firm for this item is Milone & MacBroom and given that they have existing business with as well as pending bids before his place of work, he is going to recuse himself and ask Ms. Robinson to sit in his place.

Mr. Areson moved Item 5-07-05 as presented; seconded by Mr. Shapiro.

Present for discussion were John DelVecchio and David Murphy of Milone & MacBroom.

Mr. Murphy stated they were asked to provide the town with a scope of services and fee proposal to perform a flood abatement analysis of the Pequonnock River watershed and Great Oak Park/Canoe Brook area. The \$30,000 requested includes \$10,000 for the Canoe Brook area.

Mr. Murphy stated there are federal grants available. Mr. DelVecchio said the HMGP Grant for \$20,000 has already been applied for. If the Board approves this appropriation tonight, the \$20,000 from the grant would go back against the \$30,000 requested.

Mr. Crooks hopes the Town Council would act on this as emergency legislation.

Motion approved unanimously 6 – 0

5-07-02...Sara Galvan...Opinion on whether Board of Finance can conduct operational audits on Town of Trumbull Departments.

Mr. Areson moved to table until June 14th meeting; seconded by Mr. Shapiro. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Areson moved to take Item 5-07-09 out of order; seconded by Mr. Tesoro. Motion carried unanimously.

5-07-09...Tax Collection...Transfer from 01012000-501102 Salaries-PT the sum of \$3,200 to 01012000-534404 Materials and Supplies to purchase tax payment reminder stickers.

Mr. Areson moved Item 5-07-09 as presented; seconded by Mr. Shapiro.

Brenden McDonough, Tax Collector, stated these stickers are to remind you when your taxes are due.

Motion carries 4 – 2 (Areson; Tesoro)

Mr. Areson moved to take Item 5-07-06 out of order; seconded by Mr. Tesoro. Motion carried unanimously.

5-07-06...Town Hall...Appropriate from Unreserved Fund Balance, the sum of \$1,500 to 01013800-522208 Contributions to the Southwest Conservation District in support of natural resource conservation efforts to provide information, education, consultation services and technical assistance.

Mr. Areson moved Item 5-07-06 as presented; seconded by Mr. Shapiro.

Mary Ellen LeMay, Town Council, present for discussion. This request is for dues for the support of natural resource conservation effort and providing information, education and technical assistance to municipal agents and the private landowners of the town.

Mr. Crooks stated this is the most noteworthy project that has come before us in a long time and hopes that the Town Council will act on this as emergency legislation.

Motion carries unanimously 6 – 0

Minutes of April 12, 2007...Mr. Areson moved; Mr. Shapiro seconded. Mr. Crooks moved to amend as follows:

Page 4, fourth paragraph from bottom... “Mr. Crooks confirmed with Mrs. Heim that the administration does not intend to go away from *even* payments...”

Page 5, fifth paragraph down... “Vote on amended amount of \$39,200,000, etc. Motion fails 2 – 4.”

Mr. Friedson moved to amend page 6 as follows:

First paragraph, first line... “Mr. Friedson feels it is ludicrous to be spending money *this* way on a facility...”

Motion made by Mr. Areson; seconded by Mr. Shapiro to approve as amended. Motion carries unanimously.

Vote on motion as amended carries unanimously.

Minutes of April 19, 2007...Mr. Shapiro moved to approve as presented; seconded by Mr. Areson.

Motion carries 5 – 0 – 1 (Friedson)

5-07-03...Town Clerk...Transfer from 01013600-501102 Part-Time Salaries the sum of \$2,615 to 01013600-501103 Seasonal to correct an error in assignment of an account number and Transfer from 01013600-522205 Program Expenses, \$395; 01013600-534402 Program Supplies, \$425; 01013600-556601 Seminars/Conf., \$100; 01013600-567703 Travel Reimbursement, \$75 to 01013600-545501 Legal Notices, \$995 to cover deficit in legal notices account because of a special election.

Mr. Shapiro moved; Mr. Areson seconded to approve as presented.

Motion carries unanimously 6 – 0

5-07-07...EMS...Transfer from 01022600-501888 Uniform Allowance the sum of \$1,500 to 01022600-578802 Maint.Rep.Equip./Bldg., \$1,500 to cover shortfall through the remainder of the current budget year.

Mr. Areson moved; Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve as presented.

Motion carries unanimously 6 – 0

5-07-07...Town Hall...Transfer from Account 47120000-581888 Capital & Non-Recur. The sum of \$28,000 to 01013800-581888 Capital Outlay, \$28,000 for the purchase of used furniture.

Mr. Areson moved; Mr. Tesoro seconded to approve as presented.

Ms. Heim stated there is currently a balance of \$28,359 in the Capital & Non-Recur. Account. She is requesting that \$28,000 be transferred into the Town Hall Capital Outlay account. Ms. Heim would like to finalize the purchase of some furniture. Originally new furniture was requested in the 07-08 budget as there were several needs throughout the Town Hall for partitions, desks, new file cabinets and the opportunity has arisen earlier than planned that rather than paying for new items, used items can be purchased at a reduce cost. While the original request was for \$80,000, we are going to get a substantial amount for \$28,000.

Motion carries 5 – 1 (Friedson)

5-07-08...Finance...Appropriate from Unreserved Fund Balance the sum of \$15,800 to 01011000-581888 Capital Outlay for the purchase, consulting, training and maintenance of project and grant accounting software.

It was moved by Mr. Areson; seconded by Mr. Shapiro.

Ms. Heim explained that the town manages and takes care of all bonding projects. All the accounting is handled over here. Mr. Friedson asked why we have to spend \$16,000 to buy software to manage grants for money that is being used for the BOE building. He suggested having the tech people open up a login and have the BOE open up accounts to be used by the town. Ms. Heim explained we do not have the same database as the BOE.

Mr. Areson volunteered to analyze this system before he votes on any system of this type to see what is being used.

Mr. Tesoro moved to table to a future meeting; seconded by Mr. Crooks.

Motion carries 5 – 1.

Setting of the Mill Rate:

Discussion on methodology used to come up with figure used for prior year's taxes.

Observation made by Mr. Friedson: Because to date the Board of Education has not responded to the 1.7 million dollar analysis that Mr. Crooks did and agree to return the 1.7 million dollars extra, unless they prove otherwise should be coming back to us this year, that if we pass this mill rate without getting the money back from them first, we are overtaxing the people. I think it would be irresponsible to assume we are going to get the 1.7 million back that we should have already.

Motion made by Mr. Friedson to table this until whatever the date is we have to vote on this and request the BOE to have a special session to address the 1.7 million and get it back and not have taxpayers taxed on that. Mr. Crooks seconded.

Motion to table is not debatable.

For purposes of discussion Mr. Friedson withdrew his motion; Mr. Crooks withdrew his second.

Mr. Crooks stated that we have not had an accounting for the 1.750 million that was projected by him. He was hoping we would get an answer from the board as to whether the number was reasonable, whether we could expect to get all of the funds returned to the town for which the insurance account was over budgeted by that estimated amount. In addition, the board did vote that they would give us \$622,000 back from last year's unremitted funds by the end of this fiscal year. But that number was actually \$854,000.

Mr. Areson stated that the money that was in the insurance account at the end of the last fiscal year has been given back, \$2,323,000. That money is built into the revenue numbers and is given back to the taxpayers.

Ms. McGannon stated that this amount is in their current operating budget and by law they have the right to spend that money. I am not going to count on money that is still in their operating budget because the minute I do, there is going to be some major repair or expense and I am not willing to do that; however, I am willing to add \$232,000 to the amount because I know we have not used the money we made on the Tait Mill property so that if this does not materialize we are covered by the money from the Tait Mill property.

Mr. Friedson moved to table until Thursday, May 17th; seconded by Mr. Crooks.

Motion fails 2 – 4

Mr. Tesoro moved to add \$250,000 to the 2.3 million dollars use of fund balance; seconded by Mr. Areson.

Mr. Crooks is going to vote against it because it is inappropriate to commit the Board of Education for another \$250,000 when they haven't had the opportunity to meet.

Motion carries 4 – 2

Fund Balance is \$2,561,822.

Motion made by Mr. Areson to adopt a mill rate for FY 2008 of 22.22 mills; seconded by Mr. Shapiro.

Motion carries 4 – 2

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Areson; seconded by Mr. Shapiro.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Bokine, Clerk

